

**20, December 2018**

**Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume**

Special Rapporteur on  
contemporary forms of racism,  
racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and related intolerance  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**SUBJECT: visit to Morocco to assess racism, discrimination**

Dear Ms. Tendayi Achiume,

On December 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 the United Nations Human Rights Consul (UNHRC) announced your visit to Morocco, a visit that will take place from 13 to 21 December 2018 to examine the country's efforts to eliminate racial inequality and discrimination. We<sup>1</sup> are very pleased with your visit to Morocco to discuss and examine those important themes in a country where it's urgently needed. As the news item indicates, your visit will include the cities Rabat, Tangier, Tétouan, Agadir, and Casablanca. Unfortunately, none of these cities are located in the Rif region where discrimination and racism are the most common.

According to the Moroccan news source [Hespress](#) several advocates for the Amazigh people and human rights organizations in Morocco highly recommended **Al Hoceima** and **Nador**, two cities in the Rif region to be visited by the special rapporteur, due its historical and very bad relationship between the central Arab government and the indigenous inhabitants of the Rif region the Imazighen also known as 'Berbers'. Unfortunately, we read in the same news source you've decided not to visit the two cities in the Rif region. We consider this as a very unwise and harmful decision, we would like to comment more on this point.

The Rif region and its inhabitants experience racism, discrimination, oppression and marginalization by the Arab government for decades. The recent example can be found in the Hirak movement, a movement which can be compared to the Arab spring. During the Hirak movement many young men, elderly and women were mistreated by the authorities. They were beaten, some of them were killed, others were raped and discriminated for being an Amazigh and demanding social-economical rights. The Rifians in the city of Al Hoceima where the Hirak movement started, were not able to demonstrate nor to speak up against the injustice of the authorities. Even the women were not able to held a march on the international women's day. Those who tried to demonstrate were beaten up by the police and have been arrested.

Not to mention on the 24th of November 1958 when the city of Al Hoceima was declared by the Moroccan authorities as a military zone. Entering the city of Al-Hoceima involves passing highly militarized checkpoints, which makes segregation and disparities justified through ethnic rhetoric.

We urge you as the special rapporteur to involve the city of Al Hoceima and Nador in your mission. We believe this is the only way to do justice to your observations and recommendations about Morocco's efforts on Racism and discrimination.

Respectfully,

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<sup>1</sup> Anzuf; Marokkaanse Vrouwen Vereniging Nederland; The Hague Peace Projects; Syphax Foundation; GroenLinks Amsterdam; New Urban Collective; Bij1; Humanistisch Verbond; SP Amsterdam.



**ANZUF**  
 AGRAW N ARRIF I YEZERFAN N UFGAN  
**RIF ORGANIZATION  
 FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Mustafa Ouarghi**  
 Secretary of Anzuf



**MVVN**  
 Marokkaanse Vrouwen Vereniging Nederland

**Ikram Chiddi**  
 Chair of Marokkaanse Vrouwen Vereniging Nederland



**THE  
 HAGUE  
 PEACE  
 PROJECTS**

**Mr. Jacob de Jonge**  
 Director of the Hague Peace Projects



**Mohammed Hammami**  
 Chair of the Syphax Foundation



**Mitchell Esajas**  
 Chair New Urban Collective

**GROEN  
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**Femke Roosema**  
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**Sylvana Simons**  
 Chair of the political party BIJ1

**HVMANISTISCH  
 VERBOND**

**Boris van der Ham**  
 Chair Humanistisch Verbond



**Erik Flentge**

Chair of the Socialist Party Amsterdam